Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 as follows:

Figure 6 illustrates examples <u>of</u> calculated peak and off-peak charge schedules in accordance with the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 as follows:

The charge control algorithm 100 individually controls the charging of a plurality of batteries 108 via an individual battery charge control circuits 106. The <u>individual battery charge control</u> circuits 106 can be a single charge integrated circuit (IC) or several charge IC's replicated across the battery positions. The <u>individual battery charge control</u> circuits 106 can also be a single control circuit that regulates the current to the batteries 108 on an individual basis.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 as follows:

The charge control algorithm 100 can reside in a computer system to which the ~~mechanism~~ <u>individual battery charge control circuits</u> 106 is directly coupled, in a network computer system to which the ~~mechanism~~ <u>individual battery charge control circuits</u> 106 is coupled through a network, or in a battery charging station itself. The ~~mechanism~~ <u>individual battery charge control circuits</u> 106 can be an integrated part of a computer system or portable device, such as a laptop computer, cellular phone, or personal digital assistant. One of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the charge control algorithm 100 can reside within other types of devices without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page6, line 13 as follows:

Once it is determined that the plurality of batteries 108 are to be charged for a peak usage

time period, a priority rating is determined for each of the plurality of batteries 108 based upon the parameter. When the parameter is the closeness to the desired or good-charge level, batteries closer to the good-charge level are given higher priority ratings, via step 206. Then, the plurality of batteries 108 is are charged according to the priority ratings, via step 208. The batteries with the higher priority ratings are either charged first or at a higher charge rate. Once these batteries 108 are charged to the good-charge level, they can be used. Any number of mechanisms can be used to signal that these batteries can now be used. For example, a light emitting diode (LED) can be used to signal a user, or an electronic signal can be used to signal a host computer. Other types of signaling mechanisms can also be used. The remaining batteries can continue to be charged until they also reach the good-charge level. By charging the batteries 108 based on these priority ratings, the higher priority batteries need not wait for the lower priority batteries to "catch up" before they are charged. A length of time a user must wait for a battery to reach a useful charge level is shortened. In addition, the lower charge rates for lower priority batteries prolong the lower priority batteries' lifetimes.